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ABSTRACT

A description is provided of the associate degree nursing curriculum at a hypothetical community college located in a residential community in California. After providing background on the college and a rationale for the provision of nursing education at the institution, the goals and objectives of the college and its department of nursing are outlined, including specific objectives for the associate degree in nursing (ADN) program. Following a description of the the students for whom the program is intended, an annotated list of the courses in the ADN program is presented, covering general college requirements, program prerequisites, and the semester-by-semester course sequence. The final sections outline procedures for implementing the new curriculum, evaluating the program, and revising the curriculum. (UCM)

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CURRICULUM STUDY

NURSING PROGRAM FOR an ASSOCIATE in SCIENCE DEGREE

CAMARILLO COLLEGE

CAMARILLO, CALIFORNIA

Laura T. Hall

January 28, 1987

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Nursing Program For An Associate in Science Degree

Type of Institution

Camarillo College is a small community college located in the residential community of Camarillo California. Its purpose is as a locally controlled, tuition-free, public, comprehensive, two year college providing a general education in the arts, natural and social sciences and occupational training in several areas including nursing and psychiayric technician. There are about 2000 students enrolled at the college at any one time although there is room for about 500 more.

This is a community college and the collage has no arrangements for students who do not live in the area but the college does have extensive plans for part time and adult students. The college is in an area that has several small community hospitals and one large medical center, that all cooperate in the training of nurses and psych techs. The campus also has a large media center and skills lab for the exclusive use of the nursing and psych tech students.

Rationale

It is the college's belief that growth through knowledge, understanding through learning, and concern through education, will enable each student to become a thinking, integral part of society, able to make informed and discriminating decisions and participate in our democratic, self-governing system. Nursing, as well as the other majors is taught in a general education program so that the student can broaden her education and the develop critical thinking skills necessary to succeed in the world today. The practice of nursing reflects a synthesis of theoretical and empirical knowledge from the natural and social sciences and the humanities along with knowledge of nursing theory. Emphasis must be placed on the role of nursing within the greater social context and needs of the community. Nursing is a complex profession which deals with the general public in a preventative, curative, and restorative context. Because of the changing and expanding role of nursing today colleges must better prepare their graduates through a general education program which stresses both intellectual development and the development of their natural talents. This can be done by familiarizing the student with the advancing knowledge that brought our society and the profession into being, and the culture that characterizes it today.

The training of professional nurses also requires

the use of the professional education philosophy. The type of education that results in a job, which is one of the goals that Camarillo College has for its students.

Using the pragmatic view of education the college believes that the curriculum needs to be flexible and assist all students in covering what they need to learn in the most expedient manner. Classes covering the necessary topics can be challenged by those whose experience and knowledge allows them to accomplish this successfully. Education is reconstruction of experience and the addition of knowledge which is then passed on to others in the community. This is essential to the process of continued questioning and experimentation for life long learning in a profession with an ever expanding scope of knowledge.

Finally it is the college's belief that a holistic or multidisciplinary curriculum will provide the individual student with the abilities to use their education as a tool of personal growth and fulfilment of goals.

Goals and Objectives

Camarillo College and the Department of Nursing developed this program recognizing that the students who would enroll would come from a variety of backgrounds, and experiences and be a wide range of ages. It was also noted that there is a change in the role of the nurse and it is necessary for the school to cover the skills and knowledge that is needed to care for the sick but also for the promotion and prevention of illness in an ever increasing range of ages and cultures. The nurse of the future will need to become more autonomous with the increase of home health care that utilizes the nursing skills and therefore she will have to be more accountable legally and ethically for her actions. The college also recognizes that learning to be effective must be a life-long process of interaction between the learner and environment in which behaviors are changed to incorporate new knowledge.

The goals of this program are to educate nurses who upon completion of the program will be able to work in several areas, ie. hospital, doctors offices, and home health care, in the Ventura county area. They will have the skills needed to be successful in their chosen career and the knowledge and commitment to continue seeking advancement their jobs and education.

Specific objectives for the program include:

1. Upon completion of the ADN program at Camarillo College, 85% of the graduate nurses will pass the state board examinations on their first try and 10% will pass on their second try.

2. The tests promoted by the National League of Nursing are another form of test to rate the success of the nursing program in which they are used. 80% of the graduates will pass the tests in the 80th percentile or above, and 15% will finish in the 70th percentile on completion of the program.

3. One year after program completion 75% of the graduating nurses will be working in a nursing field in the Ventura county area.

4. One year after program completion 75% of the graduate nurses will be working in the hospital field and 22% will be working in a non-hospital but medical field.

5. The nursing process combined with other nursing theories are considered nursings attempt to become more professional in their practice. 95% of the graduates who finish our program will complete the class on nursing process with a grade of C+ or better.

6. Associate Degrees in Nursing are notorious for being limited in the amount of clinical time as compared to class time used to cover nursing theory. Camarillo College

in an attempt to correct this deficit will increase the typical clinical time by 20% over other local ADN programs.

7. Five years upon completion of the Camarillo College ADN program 40% of the known graduates will have gone on to higher education as measured by taking any classes in upper level college.

8. When surveyed one year after beginning employment in the Ventura county area utilizing the skills and knowledge learned at Camarillo College the student will answer positively to questions regarding her satisfaction with her education and her employment.

9. 70% of the beginning students will complete the program in 2 years. 25% will complete the program within 2 years and one summer session.

Students for Whom Intended

Camarillo College Associate Degree in Nursing program is intended for students whose goal is to become a registered nurse, wish to complete their goal in their own community and wish to attain their goal in a minimum amount of time, i.e. minimum of 2 years of study.

The students would cover a wide variety of backgrounds: including health care workers in other jobs including LVNs and nurses aids, and also people who have not had any medical experience. The students will come from the Camarillo/ Ventura County area and hopefully will remain to practice in this nursing deprived area.

Students will have a high school diploma with a GPA of 2.5 or its equivalent. Also the prerequisite classes will be completed before they file their application to the nursing program. These prerequisite classes are chemistry, anatomy/physiology, microbiology, and a minimum Math requirement.

Students who qualify will be chosen by the use of a random number table. A physical exam must be passed before entry to the program. The exam will be considered passed if the student can exhibit freedom from communicable disease and ability to function in the hospital clinical area. The student will also need a valid CPR card and proof of rubella immunity.

There will be 60 students accepted each semester. They will be divided into 4 clinical groups and will rotate through the various clinical areas available to the college. There will be a maximum of 120 students in 8 clinical groups enrolled in the program at any one time.

Annotated List of Courses

The California Board of Registered Nursing specifies that the course of instruction for a basic nursing program shall be compromised of not less than 58 semester units, of which 36 will be in the art and science of nursing, 6 in communication skills, and 16 in related natural, behavioral and social sciences. These include anatomy, physiology, chemistry, microbiology, psychology, and anthropology or sociology.

A student is considered full time if he carries 12 semester units. He can graduate with a degree after completion of 60 units in the required areas. Students are able the complete the non-nursing courses before acceptance to the program to lighten the load of required courses.

Camarillo College requirements for an ADN are:

		Units
BAC 1	General Bacteriology and Microbiology	5
NS 1A & 1B	Fundamentals of Nursing Science I & II	4-4
NS 2A & 2B	Nursing in Physical Illness I & II	5-5
NS 3A	Psychiatric/Mental Health Nursing	5
NS 3B	Public Health/Home Health Nursing	5
NS 4A	Maternal/Child Nursing	4.5
NS 4B	Preparation for Professional Practice	4.5
NS 7	Pharmacology for Nurses	1
Psych 1	General Psychology	3
Spch 1	Introduction to Oral Communications	3
Engl 1A or 2A	English Composition Level 1 or 2	5-5
AnPh 1	Intro to Human Anatomy & Physiology	5
Soc 1,2 or 3	Sociology	3
HE 23	Child Growth and Development	3

The student must also complete the colleges general requirements which includes the above classes but also requires:

Hist4A or 7A	American History and institutions	3
	Physical education (2 classes)	min. 3
	Total of	68

prerequisite classes:

Chem 1A General Chemistry I

A study of the fundamental theories and their applications. 3 units

Chem 1AL General Chemistry Laboratory I

The laboratory provides students with experience in applying the principles developed in the lecture.

2 units

BAC 1 General Bacteriology and Microbiology

Emphasis on bacterial morphology, anatomy, staining, classification, metabolism and growth, and the effects of physical and chemical agents on bacteria.

5 units

AnPh 1 Introduction to Human Anatomy and Physiology

A survey of the major organ systems of the human body. 5 units

Total of 15 units

First Semester:

NS 1A Fundamentals of Nursing Science I

Fundamental principles of patient care, communication, personal hygiene, the nursing process and the role of the health science tea are presented. Also included is introduction to the nursing process and nursing models. 4 units

NS 2A Nursing in Physical Illness I

More complex principles of medicosurgical nursing related to intravenous therapy and fluid and electrolyte balance are presented. 5 units

NS 7 Pharmacology For Nurses

This course will provide an understanding of the mechanisms and uses of currently available drugs and will provide a foundation of knowledge that will allow the student to understand future developments in drug therapy. 1 unit

Spch 1 Introduction to Oral Communication

Training and practice in the basic principles of effective oral communication through participation in public speaking, group discussion, and oral reading. 3 units

Total of 13 units

Second Semester:

NS 1B Fundamentals of Nursing Science II

Intermediate medicosurgical nursing skills are presented. Guided clinical experience in the care of the hospitalized patient is planned concurrently with theory. 4 units

NS 2B Nursing in Physical Illness II

This course is a continuation of fluid and electrolyte disorders. Emphasis is on the endocrine system, orthopedic and dermatological nursing are also covered. 5 units

Engl 1A English Composition: Level I

This course provides training in the development of skills in reading and written expression. 5 units

Total of 14 units

Summer Session:

Psych 1 General Psychology

The fundamental principles of human behavior and the influence of heredity and environment, consideration of personality development, and adjustment, motivation, abilities and intelligence. 3 units

P.E. Student to chose 1.5 units

Total of 4.5 units

Third Semester:

NS 3A Psychiatric/Mental Health Nursing

Psychiatric and community mental health nursing for children, adolescents, and adults, correlated with guided clinical experience. 5 units

NS 4A Maternal/Child Nursing

This course introduces the student to human development, maternal and newborn nursing and nursing care of children in health and disease. 4.5 units

HE 23 Child Growth and Development

The developmental facts and theories from conception to adolescents; areas of physical, social, cognitive, and emotional growth. 3 units

P.E. Student to chose. 1.5 units

Total of 14 units

Fourth Semester:

NS 3B Public Health/ Home Health Nursing

This course focuses on the patient who requires care in the home. The student will have a guided clinical experience in the field of visiting nurse. 5 units

NS 4B Preparation For Professional Practice

This course combines nursing of the patient with neurological dysfunction and/or sensory restriction with concepts of preparation for professional practice and the nursing process combined with the nursing Model. 4.5 units

Soc 1 Introduction To Sociology

Study of human behavior in the context of social systems; consideration of sociology as a science; emphasizes basic factors such as group structures, socialization, culture, class, institutions, demography,and social change. 3 units

Total of 12.5 units

Summer Session:

Hist 7A Social & Political History Of the U.S.

English colonization of North America, the American revolutionary experience, emergence of the new nation, the sectional struggle and the Civil War. 3 units

Total of 3 units

Procedure for Implementation

Camarillo College, noting the nursing shortage in their area contacted the available medical facilities and nurses' organizations and received a favorable reaction to the plan of beginning nurses training at the college. The college prepared and submitted a proposal to the National League for Nursing, requesting formal approval for its program. Approval is now under consideration.

Several orientation meetings were set up for high school guidance councilors, interested students both in high schools and the community colleges in the area and members of the community and its leaders. The goal of these meetings was to familiarize the public with the program and receive their input and support. Community support was obtained and has continued to be positive.

The Department of Nursing is chaired by a register nurse with a Doctorate in Education and staffed by 6 full time associate professors with Masters Degrees in Nursing. There are also 6 other instructors with a minimum BSN, who assist in the skills lab and in the clinical facilities on a part time basis of at least 20 hours a week. Other instructors are available as needed on a substitute basis.

Camarillo College has appropriate classroom and library facilities available for the nursing program. they have the use of a wing of 6 classrooms. Also included in this wing is

a skills lab that includes an area set up like a hospital ward with several hospital beds and other necessary equipment. The lab also includes necessary audiovisual equipment for the programed instructions used in the fundamental classes and other media as film strips. Contacts with local hospitals, health departments, and home health care agencies have been developed to provide the varied clinical experience necessary for implementation of the goals and objectives of the program.

Finally there has been an active commitment on the part of the local community, and its leaders to support the education of nurses in the area.

Evaluation of the Program

To preform its necessary function an evaluation program should have certain characteristics. It should be:

a. be consistent with the objectives
b. be comprehensive in method
c. be of diagnostic value regarding strengths and weaknesses
d. have validity to subject matter
e. be continuous

Input from the community, students and the staff is necessary if the evaluation is to be educationally effective. A systematic plan has been developed to evaluate the curriculum involving the collection of data based on the the individual objectives. Decisions should be made about the objectives based on existing criterion on the national norm. The use of the National League of Nursing tests will be one to the tools used for determining the effectiveness of learning. These tests will allow for comparisons to be made on a national level as well as on an individual basis. the tests will be administered a minimum of two times during the two years of the program. Clinical evaluations of experiences provided will be made on an ongoing basis. These evaluations will allow the staff to enhance or change future clinical experiences. Students will be asked to evaluate both the classes and the instructors in regards to both its strengths and weaknesses. This information will be important when changes are to be considered. Lastly evaluations of the

curriculum will be made of graduates and employers within the community the college serves.

Student knowledge and their clinical progress in relation to the programs objectives will be evaluated in a variety of manners. These should include: paper and pencil tests, oral reports, formal written reports, nursing process and patient care plans, and clinical reviews by department and staff facility. Objectives:

1. The California State Board of Nursing supplies each educational facility involved in training nurses with the results of the state board exams. Determining the percentage of graduates to pass the exam would be a matter of statistics. This objective is important to fulfill the colleges goal of educating a nurse who is than able to practice her profession.

2. This objective also deal with statistics from the results of the National League of Nursing Tests. These tests are multiple choice and results are easily analyzed. results can be used to compare the colleges program and its results with others in the country as well as comparing individual student progress.

3. The information from the objective will be obtained by contacting the graduates and asking them to complete a questionairre that will include this information. 50 % of the graduating class would be an acceptable responce to this objective.This statistical information will allow the college to follow up on its goal to keep nurses in the Ventura county area. This is an objective that will have to have the support of the community. The communities support of the college in their attempts to keep nurses in this area could take the form of making employment in Ventura County an attractive alternative to driving to the LA area.

4. This information will come from the questionairre mentioned in objective number 3. This is also statistical information to assess where the graduates are finding employment. This information will allow the college to change or adjust its program more to the needs of the students future employment.

5. The nursing process along with a nursing model (of which there are several) is a systematic approach of showing other nurses, the medical profession, the courts (when necessary) and insurance companies the exact contribution

and the need for the contribution that nurses make. Two classes will be offered that cover this topic and the students are required to take them both. Evaluation will be made by completing the class successfully. Several written care plans based on a model will be required for each class. The evaluation of this objective will come form the official class transcript.

6. The evaluation of increasing the clinical time will be obtained from input from students after completion of the program from the questionnaire mentioned in objective 3.Also the ease of dealing with the culture shock associated with the new nurse and from employers and the amount of time spent on job orientation as compared with other new graduates and other new nursing hires will be looked at also by questionairre.

7. These statistics may a bit more difficult to obtain but continuing education is important to the nurse. A follow up questionairre will be sent to Camarillo College graduates 5 years after completion. Due to the time that has lapsed a 20% responce will be considered appropriate. There is a push toward obtaining a BSN as a prerequisite to be considered a professional nurse. It may be just a matter of years before this is a requirement and education has to plan in that direction. Camarillo College considers higher education to be an appropriate goal and one to be encouraged.

8. The satisfaction of the nurse will also be included in the questionairre mentioned in objective # 3. there will also be other questions included, for example job satisfaction will be questioned.

9. This process objective has the goal of keeping students in the program. It should be an ongoing thing. As students leave their reasons shoulf be obtained in an exit interview if possible and their reasons should be passed on to the revision committee.

Procedure for Curriculum Revision

The expanding role of the nurse requires that curriculum development, evaluation and especially revision be and ongoing process in the education of nurses. Evaluation within the department will be done on a semester by semester basis before the start of every new group of students. The findings from the evaluation processes will be obtained and reviewed by the revision committee. Their recommendations

will be acted upon by the administration of the department or the college as necessary.

The revision committee should include a student, facility member, member of the community interested in nursing education but not employed in the medical field, a member of the community that is directly involved in the hiring of nurses, and a member of the college administration.

The revisions can include changes in the content of a course or its instructor, addition or subtraction of classes as knowledge and experience deems necessary, incorporating the educational resources of a local facility or elimination the use of such a facility. Pre and post tests could be another way of looking at the revision process. If it is found that too many students are not able to complete the program, the selection process could be altered. Also the use of learning labs or tutorials could be instituted.

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